

heat, without sufficient breaks, or adequate protective gear.

These hazards have led countries like Russia and Kazakhstan to restrict tobacco harvesting to adults, but no such protections exist for children in the United States.

The time has come for the United States of America to bring child labor laws in line with our American values and give all of our children the fundamental protections they need and rightfully deserve.

That is why I am once again re-introducing the Children's Act for Responsible Employment, better known as the CARE Act.

While retaining current exemptions for family farms and agricultural education programs like 4-H and Future Farmers of America, the CARE Act raises labor standards and protections for farm worker children to the same level set for children in all other occupations.

Specifically the CARE ACT ends our country's double standard that allows children in agriculture to work at younger ages and for longer hours than those working in all other industries.

It raises the minimum age for agricultural work to 14 and restricts children under 16 from work that interferes with their education or endangers their health and well-being.

The CARE Act also prohibits children under the age of 18 from working in agricultural jobs which the Department of Labor has declared as particularly hazardous. This is consistent with current law governing every industry outside of agriculture.

No child should be discriminated against based on the work they do. All of America's children deserve to be protected equally under our laws.

Mr. Speaker, it is our moral obligation to do everything in our power to protect the rights, safety and educational future of our most precious resource—America's children, and I urge my colleagues to support the CARE Act.

HONORING COLONEL JAMES C.
HODGES

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Colonel James C. Hodges of the United States Air Force for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our nation as the Commander at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey. Colonel Hodges is leaving his position at the Joint Base and transitioning to a new role.

Today, the Joint Base stands as a model, state-of-the-art facility with Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine and Coast Guard operations, including airlift and air refueling, soldier training and deployment and aircraft carrier research and development. The Joint Base's officers provide an invaluable service to the military. In particular, the 87th Air Base Wing provides installation management support for 3,933 facilities with an approximate value of \$9.3 billion in physical infrastructure.

Colonel Hodges has been serving as the 87th Air Base Wing Commander and Installation Commander, where he has provided installation support to more than 80 mission partners. Colonel Hodges has also been re-

sponsible for providing mission-ready expeditionary Airmen and Sailors to combatant commanders in support of joint and combined operations. As the Commander of the Nation's only Tri-Service Base, Colonel Hodges has had a very difficult job, which he has performed masterfully.

A career civil engineer, Colonel Hodges obtained his degree from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1991. Upon receiving such degree, Colonel Hodges has served a variety of staff positions at the base, major command, joint, multinational and Pentagon levels. He has also commanded at the squadron and group level. His contingency experience includes service as a commander of an expeditionary civil engineer squadron in Operation Iraqi Freedom and as a joint-multinational staff officer in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Along with his lengthy service, Colonel Hodges has devoted countless hours of his time to furthering his education. He holds a Master of Science in engineering and policy from Washington University, a Master of Arts in organizational management from George Washington University and a Master of Strategic Studies from the Air War College.

Colonel Hodges' great work has not gone unnoticed. His military awards include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with silver oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Joint Achievement Medal and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service of Colonel James C. Hodges as he transitions into a new role and continues to serve the United States of America. I wish him the best as he proceeds into the next chapter of his career.

HONORING MICHAEL KARLS OF
THE FESTUS TIGERS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Michael Karls of the Festus Tigers for his first place win in the 3200 Meter Run at the 2015 Class 4 Track and Field State Championship.

Michael and his coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community. He was also chosen as his school's scholar-athlete of the 2014–2015 year by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Michael Karls of the Festus Tigers for a job well done.

HONORING WASHINGTON STATE
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT ELSON
FLOYD

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today we remember the life of Washington State Univer-

sity President Elson Floyd. Dr. Floyd was one of the leading lights of education in our state. He not only ensured that he personally engaged with the lives of the students on his own campus, but he advocated for higher education across the state to any who would listen. He made educating his top priority and took extra measures to help his school succeed—such as cutting his own salary when he saw the effects of the economic downturn on WSU. I have had the pleasure of personally meeting Dr. Floyd and was moved by his passion and sincerity. We need more men and women like him throughout this country, helping our young people realize the advantages of pursuing a good education and pursue their dreams. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife and children as well as with his WSU family. As we say in the law enforcement world, he is gone but never forgotten.

CELEBRATING THE 77TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 77th Anniversary of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

As you know, we can thank the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), signed into law by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1938, for providing workers with an hourly minimum wage, overtime pay, and child labor protections. Since then, the FLSA has been amended numerous times in an attempt to reflect changes in the cost of living. The most recent increase was in 2007, bringing the hourly minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to its current rate of \$7.25 per hour.

Unfortunately, many key components of the FLSA are outdated and have failed to keep pace with the demands of daily life in 2015. This includes the value of the minimum wage, which has decreased sharply over the past few years—a mere \$7.25 per hour equates to \$14,500 per year for a full-time minimum wage employee. This makes it difficult for individuals to support themselves and their families, forcing many people to live below the poverty line. Other present day workers' concerns include the subminimum wage for tipped workers, which has remained at \$2.13 per hour for the past two decades. Domestic workers lack access to health care, paid sick days or paid time off—something I believe must be changed. Moreover, “comp time” in lieu of overtime pay, and break time for nursing mothers are workers' rights issues that need to be addressed in order to have a more productive workforce that can compete in a global marketplace, as well as to maintain a thriving society here at home.

We just celebrated the Fair Labor Standards Act's 75th Anniversary two years ago, and there was a lot of positive discussion around the issue at that time. We must keep up this momentum and continue to fight for workers' rights in our increasingly global economy. People deserve a livable wage for a hard days' work, and we urge you to bring up legislation that will lift so many Americans out of poverty.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF MONSIGNOR JOHN BEVINS

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Monsignor John Bevins of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury, Connecticut.

This Sunday, Monsignor Bevins will celebrate the completion of 24 years of distinguished service to the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception and the entire Waterbury community. Prior to his appointment as pastor of the basilica, Monsignor Bevins was a Navy Chaplain for 23 years, faithfully serving his fellow servicemembers wherever he was stationed including Vietnam. Monsignor Bevins has dedicated his life to his church, city, and country.

During his time as pastor, Monsignor Bevins has built a legacy of innovation and compassion for the basilica and its members. He was instrumental in having the parish named a minor basilica by Pope Benedict XVI in 2008 and has been involved in the creation and restoration of numerous parish programs. From feeding the homeless every morning, to providing workshops for adult education, to leading a massive renovation project, Monsignor Bevins' spiritual guidance and good work has positively impacted countless lives.

Monsignor Bevins illustrates the power of altruistic generosity and determination to bringing people together and strengthening communities. I would like to thank him for his exceptional contributions to the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception and the Waterbury community. He will be greatly missed, but his legacy of service at Immaculate Conception will continue for years to come.

Congratulations to Monsignor Bevins on his retirement.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE VIETNAM WAR

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 50th Anniversary of the start of the Vietnam War.

The treatment so many of our veterans faced when they returned home from tours of duty was and is unacceptable. It is a dark chapter in our nation's history that we must never allow to be repeated. It is a testament to our veterans' unyielding call to duty that so many of them remain involved in veteran's service organizations and continue taking care of our troops as they return home from the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Georgia has a rich military heritage and her involvement in the Vietnam War is no different. Out of the 228,000 sons and daughters of our state that served in the military during the war, 1,584 were killed, 8,534 were wounded, 21 were held as prisoners of war and 35 are missing in action. Today, it is our honor to be the home state of an estimated 254,000 Vietnam veterans.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the First District of Georgia, it is my honor to extend to our veterans this long overdue welcome home with the thanks of a grateful nation.

HONORING WAYNE BURGESS UPON
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to thank and honor an advocate, employee, veteran, and community leader from my district, Mr. Wayne Burgess, upon his retirement. Wayne has been a fixture of the Groton community for nearly 50 years, as the longest serving Principal Officer of MDA-UAW Local 571, as the President of the Southeastern Connecticut Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, and as a leader in countless other local service organizations.

His energy and commitment are boundless, as evidenced by his impressive accomplishments, beginning with his service in the Navy during the Vietnam War. Wayne served three deployments aboard the USS Taylor from 1967–1969 before returning home to work at Electric Boat, where he has remained involved ever since. At EB, he worked as a technical/test writer before being elected MDA-UAW Financial Secretary in 1988. In the years that followed, Wayne constantly saw new opportunities for EB and its employees. He began the EB School to Work program in the City of Groton that allows high school juniors the opportunity to work at EB during the summers.

Wayne also devotes his time to the United Way of Southeastern Connecticut, serving on the Food Advisory Board for the Gemma E. Moran United Way Center in New London and serves as the volunteer Chairman of the Charter Oak Credit Union Supervisory Committee. He is a devoted advocate for labor, for good jobs, for opportunity, and for the hardworking members of our community.

Please join me in thanking Wayne Burgess for the monumental impact he has made on the Groton community, and wishing him a peaceful and productive retirement.

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of Trade Adjustment Assistance. Although it is important that we sustain this program, this is not the best reauthorization bill the House could consider. However, the program expires on September 30 and this legislation allows workers in my district and across the country to access the support they need to compete in our global economy.

Unlike the bill that I introduced with Ranking Member LEVIN earlier this year, today's bill has several shortcomings, including one of critical concern. This legislation cuts funding for worker training from \$575 million to \$450 million at

a time when we are expanding markets and transforming our economy.

We are in the middle of simultaneously negotiating trade agreements with Asia and the Pacific, as well as the European Union. Those who are impacted from increased competition deserve support and a safety net to adjust and reenter the job market.

The Administration recognizes that the \$450 million funding level does not take into account increased competition from Asia and the Pacific. However, Secretary Perez has assured Congress that his funding level is adequate to cover not only training services, but also case management, reemployment services, and state administration of the program—all areas that had been previously funded separately, not with a combined funding stream, like that in this bill. I hope the Secretary is correct but should this not be the case, I hope the Administration is prepared to work with Congress to provide additional funding with the same vigor they've invested in passing TPA.

I am glad to see that we are no longer paying for this program by cutting funds from Medicare. However, I am disappointed that this bill does not qualify public sector workers for Trade Adjustment Assistance. They are an important part of our workforce and should be able to qualify for access to the same services.

Our nation's economy and success depend on our workers. Over the last decade, I have been a strong supporter of Trade Adjustment Assistance and have led the effort to protect, extend, and enhance the program. I believe in this program and will continue this fight for good jobs, to ensure American workers can provide for their families, and that our country remains competitive.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, on June 23, 2015 I missed votes due to a previously scheduled doctor's appointment.

HONORING MACKENZIE RONEY OF
THE HERCULANEUM BLACKCATS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mackenzie Roney of the Herculanum Blackcats for her first place win in Pole Vaulting at the 2015 Class 3 Track and Field State Championship.

Mackenzie and her coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community. She was also chosen as her school's scholar-athlete of the 2014–2015 year by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Mackenzie Roney of the Herculanum Blackcats for a job well done.